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(54) **Printer and mailboxing system with banner sheet indicator system for split jobs**

(57) A shared users printing system, with an electronic printer for printing print jobs of respective different plural users, includes a printer mailbox system (10) for receiving the print jobs in multiple mailbox bins (11) of a limited sheet capacity, and a sheet distribution system (16) for automatically directing into different individual mailbox bins assigned to different users their respective print jobs, with at least the initial sheets of a particular print jobs, with at least the initial sheets of a particular user being directed to a selected first mailbox bin. A control system controls the sheet distribution system in a job splitting program in accordance with the maximum sheet stacking capacity of the first bin to divert subsequently printed sheets being printed for that user, which would exceed the maximum capacity to at least one other bin (11a). In coordination with this diversion of subsequently printed sheets, the printer automatically prints and inserts a special banner sheet (52) as the last sheet inserted into the first bin, as the top sheet, with a readable indication that the subsequent printed sheets for that user are being so diverted to other bin(s), and indicating their locations. The banner sheets are only printed for such job splitting, and not for normal unsplit print jobs. Another special banner sheet (54) is automatically printed and inserted into the other bin (11a) with the diverted subsequent printed sheets in a position to identify them. The other bin may be a higher sheet stacking capacity overflow tray which is commonly shared by plural users.

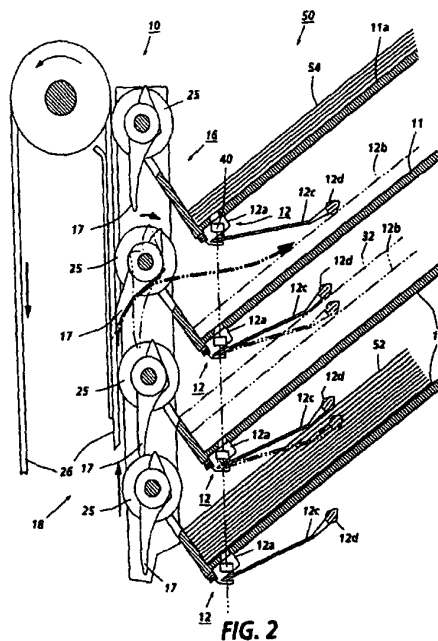


FIG. 2

EP 0 729 078 A3



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			G03G
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 3 December 1999	Examiner Trepp, E
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			

EPO FORM 1503 03.92 (PatCat)

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

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03-12-1999

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